

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/736,940

Examiner

Amanda H. Merlino

Applicant(s)

OPPENHEIMER ET AL.

Art Unit

2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

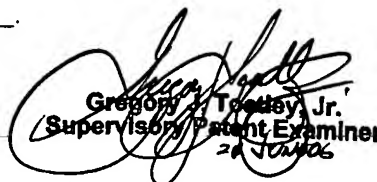
1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed 12/16/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/26/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


Gregory J. Tooley, Jr.
Supervisory Patent Examiner
20 JUL 06

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Cary S. Kappel on 6/15/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

- a) on line 5 of claim 1, "a fiber optic sensor" has been replaced by -- said fiber optic sensor --;
- b) on line 5 of claim 3, " a first sensor" has been replace by -- said first sensor --.

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1-21 allowed.

As to claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, and 19, the prior of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a coronagraph comprising a first mirror for directing a beam of light onto an occulting mask, the first mirror adjustable based on a data from a fiber optic sensor or a second sensor, an occulting mask for separating the beam into a first and second portion, the occulting mask directing the first portion onto said fiber optic sensor and the second portion onto a lyot stop, the occulting mask adjustable based on data from the second sensor, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 1.

As to claims 2, 5, 8, 12, 15, 17, and 20, the prior of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a method for detecting reflective bodies external to a light source comprising detecting a first portion of a beam of light at a fiber optic sensor after the beam has passed through an occulting mask, based on a data from the fiber optic sensor, adjusting a mirror or an occulting mask, detecting a second portion of a beam of light at said second sensor after the beam has reflected off of a lyot stop, based on a data from the second sensor, adjusting the first mirror or the occulting mask, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 2.

As to claims 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 18, and 21, the prior of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a coronagraph comprising a first mirror for directing a beam of light onto an occulting mask, the first mirror adjustable based on a data from a first sensor or a second sensor, an occulting mask for separating the beam into a first and second portion, the occulting mask directing the first portion onto said first sensor and the second portion onto a lyot stop, the occulting mask adjustable based on data from the second sensor, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 3.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

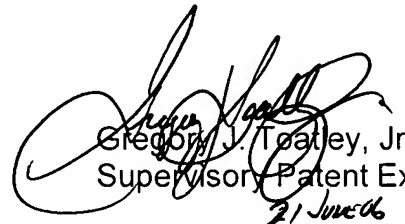
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amanda H Merlino whose telephone number is 571-272-2421. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday and Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J Toatley, Jr. can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext 77. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Amanda H Merlino *ah*
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2877
June 15, 2006


Gregory J. Toatley, Jr.
Supervisory Patent Examiner
21 June 06